

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 17, 22, 27, 32, 37, 42, 44, and 48 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 17, 22, 27, 32, 37, 42, 44, and 48.

II. Claim Amendments

Claim 52 has been added by this reply. Claims 1, 17, 22, 27, 32, 37, 42, 44, and 48 have been amended in this reply to depend from claim 52. This new claim is fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

III. Election of Species Requirement

Applicant elects Species V as depicted in Figure 7, for continued prosecution without traverse. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 15-18, 20-28, 30-38, 40-44, 46, 48, 50, and 51 read on elected Species V. Further, the Applicant believes that claim 52 is generic to all of the species (*i.e.*, Species I-VIII). Accordingly, all of the non-elected claims are left pending, in the event that claim 52 is found to be allowable and generic to all of the species.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04558.036001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/10/03



Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
Rosenthal & Osha L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

55038_1